Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

2015/16
Annual Service Plan Report

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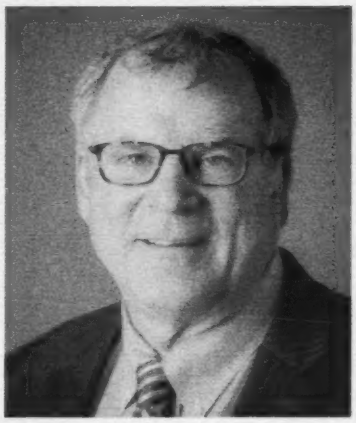


Minister's Message and Accountability Statement

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for stewardship of provincial Crown land and natural resources, and protection of B.C.'s archaeological and heritage resources. Overseeing a land base of 94.8 million hectares, the ministry supports the sustainable management of forest, mineral and land resources, the prosperity, viability and competitiveness of industries that use them, and public access for a wide range of activities such as hunting, fishing and recreation. The ministry is responsible for policy development, operational management and implementation related to all or part of 55 statutes and associated regulations.

We are now five years into a streamlined approach that integrates policy with operational resource management, creating a single land manager for the province's resource sector. This approach has resulted in greater coordination between agencies and organizations, providing a more efficient system to support B.C. workers, businesses, investors and the environment. It's a regional approach that allows government staff to make effective and informed decisions that take into account the needs of the communities, people and ecosystems directly affected.

Sustainably-managed hunting contributes over $350 million each year to B.C.'s economy. In 2016, following up on a commitment made in 2013, my ministry launched a new online portal that makes it easy for hunters to instantly access a range of e-services, including hunting licences and applications for limited entry hunting (LEH) draws. Moving hunting services online underlines government's commitment to reduce red tape for British Columbians and supports the transformation of natural resource services under the natural resource permitting project.

The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC society is recognized as one of the most progressive and accomplished fisheries management organizations in North America generating economic benefits and providing world-class angling opportunities. As of April 1, 2015, 100 per cent of net angling revenues are transferred to the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, to fund research, conservation and education programs, improving angler access and the society's stocking program.

Further to the passage of the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* in early 2014, off-road vehicle registration and safety provisions became mandatory on Crown land on November 1, 2015. The new regulations strengthen B.C.'s Off-Road Vehicle Management Framework which ensures off-road vehicles are driven in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, and combats vehicle theft. The new regulations also include provisions on number plate placement, rules for child operators and safety equipment requirements including the mandatory use of helmets.

Ministry staff have worked successfully with many stakeholder groups over the past year. In particular I would like to highlight the creation of the BC Rural Dividend, which was created based on advice from the Rural Advisory Council. This new program provides $25 million a year, over three years, to help rural communities reinvigorate and diversify their local economies, making them more attractive places to live and work.

The *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) was brought into force in February 2016. New regulations, associated with licensing groundwater, updating water fees and rentals, regulating well construction

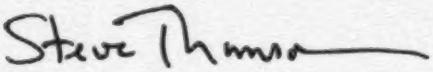
and maintenance, ensuring dam safety, and compliance and enforcement, are now in effect. The new Act and regulations will address the challenges, such as climate change and population growth, facing our precious water resources.

On average, 30 to 40% of wildfires in British Columbia each year are caused by people. Effective April 1st, the ministry increased fines for a variety of wildfire-related violations, and in some cases tripling them. This tough stand is necessary to protect our communities, our homes and our natural resources from wildfire damage.

Another milestone for my ministry was the finalization of the Great Bear Rainforest land use order and the new *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act*, which will support ecosystem-based management for this unique region in B.C.'s north and central coast. The final land use order will protect 85% of the region's forests, while allowing the other 15% to support forestry activity and accompanying jobs. This land use order was the result of unprecedented collaboration between government, First Nations, forest companies and environmental groups, and will come into force later this year.

As manager for the commercial and recreational activities that occur on Crown land, this ministry continues to build a natural resource sector in B.C. that is sustainable and environmentally responsible, while contributing to a strong economy and a lasting legacy for generations to come.

The *Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations 2015/16 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the Ministry's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2015/16 - 2017/18 Service Plan.* I am accountable for those results as reported.



Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Table of Contents

Minister's Message and Accountability Statement 3
Purpose of the Ministry 6
Strategic Direction and Context 6
Report on Performance 7
Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results 7
Ministry Financial Report 19
Financial Report Summary Table 20
Forest Practices Board Financial Report 22
Major Capital Projects 23
Natural Resource Permitting Project (NRPP) 23
Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks 24
Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions 26
Appendix C: Minister's Mandate and Actions Summary 27

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for stewardship of provincial Crown land and natural resources, and protection of British Columbia's archaeological and heritage resources. Overseeing a land base of 94.8 million hectares, the ministry supports the sustainable management of forest, mineral and land resources; the viability and competitiveness of industries and communities that depend on them; and public access for a wide range of activities such as hunting, fishing and recreation. The ministry is responsible for policy development, operational management and implementation related to all or part of 55 statutes and associated regulations.

Strategic Direction and Context

The ministry delivers on its vision of environmental sustainability and economic prosperity by focusing on the strategic priorities identified in the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan,* and the *BC Jobs Plan*. The ministry remains committed to delivering its goals, objectives and strategies in keeping with Government's platform of compensation and accountability as described in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles. The Minister's Mandate Letter of June 2014 outlined the top strategic priorities for 2015/16, as reflected throughout this report.

The ministry operates within a complex economic and ecological environment with multiple external influences impacting its operations. A few examples pertaining to the 2015/16 fiscal year are discussed below.

Facilitating jobs and economic growth.

B.C.'s real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to grow, and the government is committed to ensuring development opportunities are available where they make economic and environmental sense. In 2015/16, the ministry helped realize these opportunities for British Columbians through a continued effort to improve timeframes for decisions regarding resource-use authorizations, and fostering a healthy business environment where the natural resource sector could thrive, while maintaining sustainable stewardship practices. The ministry also supported a strong, sustainable and globally competitive forest sector through focused, targeted actions to improve forest sector competitiveness. This includes initiating the new Rural Dividend, to assist rural communities and organizations to diversify their economies and build and retain their workforce. The ministry worked to improve the competitive environment for business and public access to ministry programs through various red tape reduction initiatives, full participation in the Natural Resource Permitting Project, and by supporting Government's objectives for reconciliation by continued work to engage First Nations as full and active partners in B.C.'s environmental sustainability and economic success.

Complex land use decisions and consideration.

The Province is facing increasing and competing demands on how B.C.'s natural resources are managed, which leads to challenging decisions for land managers and licensed users of Crown land. The Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court decision and other court decisions are also influencing factors for decision makers. To address these challenges, in 2015/16, the ministry continued to integrate policy and operational resource management under the "Provincial Land Manager" vision, and implemented new approaches and tools to better manage the cumulative effects of multiple activities. Also in 2015/16, the Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order was finalized, and in early 2016, the Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act was passed to continue implementation of ecosystem based management in this iconic, globally significant area.

Maintaining a healthy and safe environment.

Factors such as habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and climate change that influence wildfires, floods, landslides, droughts and outbreak of pests like the mountain pine beetle continue to impact the provincial landscape. To keep B.C.'s natural environment healthy, the ministry manages natural resources in a way that considers these potential impacts, and the long-term implications they may have to the sustainability of resource values and communities. In 2015/16, the ministry responded to these factors through its climate change adaptation strategy; wildfire management strategic plan and by providing an additional $10 million to the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative; the remediation of contaminated sites; the *BC Flood Response Plan*; and ongoing cooperation with Emergency Management BC. In addition, the ministry announced $85 million for the newly created Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. which will take a strategic approach to preventing wildfires through a targeted focus on prevention and mitigation, ensuring healthy and resilient forests and wildlife habitat for the future, and increasing economic opportunities for British Columbians.

Report on Performance

The Premier's June 2014 Mandate Letter provided the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations with direction on strategic priorities. The ministry's resulting actions to March 31, 2016 are summarized in Appendix C. Highlights include: introduction of the Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Order and Act to continue implementing ecosystem based management in this globally significant area of B.C.; the Forest Fibre Action plan representing 13 actions designed to improve secure access to harvest wood residuals to secondary fibre users; introduction of the online Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) application which will reduce red tape while making it easier for hunters to submit and track their LEH applications; the completion and implementation of the recommendations from the BC Timber Sales effectiveness review; and the introduction of the Rural Dividend Program which will provide $75 million over three fiscal years for communities of 25,000 or under.

The ministry operated in accordance with the Government's Taxpayer Accountability Principles by seeking value for taxpayer dollars, striving to listen and respond to the needs of its stakeholders, and operating in a transparent and accountable manner.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

The ministry aligns its activities under three goals to achieve its vision of environmental sustainability and economic prosperity:

1. Efficient, citizen-centred public service delivery;
2. Coordinated, sustainable management of B.C's natural resources; and
3. Productive, thriving natural resource sector and resilient communities.

The following nine performance measures gauge progress toward the ministry's goals and associated objectives as established for the 2015/16-2017/18 Service Plan.

Goal 1: Efficient, citizen-centred public service delivery.

Consistent with Government's strategic goal of a strong economy, the ministry has streamlined natural resource authorizations and integrated client services to facilitate resource job creation and encourage industry investment. The ministry also supported Government's Liquefied Natural Gas

(LNG) initiative by ensuring streamlined processes for required permit authorizations, and through Crown land sales and tenuring supports for development of LNG facilities.

Objective 1.1: Streamlined authorizations processes.

Strategies

- Provide clear and transparent processes to obtain timely and durable decisions on resource use authorizations on Crown land, including for projects requiring multiple approvals.
- Support the Natural Resource Permitting Project to increase the efficiency of the authorizations activities and services across Government's natural resource agencies.
- Make authorization services more easily accessible to citizens and proponents by providing more options for electronic authorizations, licensing, payment and permitting options, and client directed authorizations.

Performance Measure 1: Natural resource authorizations streamlining.

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target[1]	2017/18 Target
Per cent of new *Land Act* and *Water Act* tenure applications processed within 140 days	69%	80%	76%	80%	80%

Data Source: Authorization Tracking System

[1] From 2016/17 onward, results will reflect the 12 month rolling average proportion of applications closed within 140 days out of the total applications received during those 12 months plus all applications remaining active since April 2014.

Discussion

This performance measure assesses an aspect of the ministry's commitment to streamline the regulatory framework for managing access to the Province's forests, lands and natural resources - the time it takes for the ministry to reach a decision on a land or water application. The ability for the ministry to provide consistent, reliable and timely decisions on resource applications supports a strong economy, stable communities, and the creation of jobs for British Columbians.

The measure uses data from the Authorization Tracking System, reported by FrontCounter BC. The targets consider a number of factors such as historic land and water application processing time, implementation of improved process efficiencies, and current average processing times. Results for 2015/16 are based on applications received on or after January 1, 2015 through to December 31, 2015.

In 2015/16, the ministry focused on identifying and implementing process improvements in order to further streamline and simplify the application processes for clients. Although the target of 80% was not met in 2015/16, the ministry realized a 7% improvement in average land and water application processing time since 2014/15. This improvement is significant, given that FrontCounter BC received 6,642 (13%) more applications in 2015/16 than it did in the preceding year. Overall, this means that more land and water applications decisions are being made, and faster, to support a strong economy. To further progress towards its target of 80% in 2016/17, the ministry will continue its efforts towards making its internal processes more efficient and effective in order to improve processing times. In addition, the ministry is a key sector partner, working collaboratively with the Natural Resource Transformation Secretariat to support delivery of the Natural Resource Permitting Project to modernize systems, integrate tools and provide access to shared data, all of which will contribute to streamlined authorizations and processes across the natural resource sector.

Objective 1.2: Integrated and coordinated client services.

Strategies

- Implement common standards among natural resource agencies, federal agencies and municipalities to align regulations and coordinate natural resource use decisions.
- Implement opportunities to streamline the approval process for multi-agency major projects, such as liquefied natural gas.
- Respond to the interests of citizens, businesses and First Nations to improve authorizations services and enhance relationships.

Performance Measure 2: Client satisfaction with natural resource authorization services

Performance Measure	2007/08 Baseline	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target[1]	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Client satisfaction success score	71[2]	74.7	73.8	82	70.9	82	82

Data Source: FrontCounter BC Authorization Tracking System and BCStats Client Satisfaction Survey.

[1] Targets are set using 18 month trending, and considering operational context (e.g., creation of the new Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, budget impacts on staffing levels, global economic factors, etc.).

[2] Scores are calculated and reported as a mean score out of 100.

Discussion

This measures client satisfaction with natural resource authorization services by combining two aspects: business' and individuals' ability to obtain information and assistance with preparing resource use applications; and client satisfaction with the overall authorization process across natural resource sector ministries. Client satisfaction scores provide a comprehensive measurement of service excellence and important data which is used to make client experience improvements. The long-term target of 82 is set as a 'best-in-class' benchmark, as compared to other Canadian jurisdictions offering similar services.

Client satisfaction scores have fallen below the ministry's stretch target of 82 since they were introduced, due in part to large increases in volumes of applications and services that have been shifted to the online service channel, which has substantively increased the number and scope of clients canvassed through ministry services. In 2015/16, FrontCounter BC successfully supported 48 program areas, receiving over 36,000 calls and processing over 16,000 authorizations.

To improve the client experience with natural resource authorization services, the ministry is using client satisfaction data to take a proactive approach, and has initiated local improvement actions. In addition, through service improvement initiatives under the Natural Resource Permitting Project, work with the Institute for Citizen-Centred Service and our partner agencies to deliver Client Service Certification courses for managers and staff, the ministry anticipates client satisfaction scores will begin to improve towards target levels.

Goal 2: Coordinated, sustainable management of B.C.'s natural resources.

Consistent with the ministry's dedication to transparency in managing responsibilities for stewardship in the best interest of citizens of the Province, the ministry engages in equitable, respectful and effective communications to ensure all parties and First Nations are properly informed and consulted on all actions and decisions in a timely manner.

Objective 2.1: Sustainable natural resource management through effective policy, legislation and external relationships.

Strategies

- Work in partnership with natural resource ministries to renew natural resource policy and legislation that recognize requirements for resilient ecosystems and species.
- Increase ecosystem health by working collaboratively with multi-sector partner groups and First Nations to restore degraded ecosystems through invasive plant management, ecosystem restoration, remediation and best management practices.
- Support better decision-making and contribute to the Province's diversity of hunting and fishing opportunities, for example, by maintaining a current, comprehensive inventory of the Province's priority fish and wildlife populations.
- Look for opportunities to improve timber quality and supply through reforestation, forest inventory, fuel management and intensive and innovative silviculture.
- Improve the ability to make durable decisions on the land base that consider landscape-level conditions, climate change, and cumulative effects on key environmental, social and economic values, including historic and archaeologically significant places.
- Foster engagement with First Nations and local governments in achieving provincial stewardship objectives and landscape level approaches to management.

Performance Meausure 3: Resource Data Quality Index

Performance Measure	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Quality of resource monitoring data used for resource management decisions[1]	7.3	8.0	8.5	8.6	9.1	9.3

Data Source: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Provincial and Regional Operations.

[1] Index is an average of four dataset quality indices to a maximum score of 10: inventory, wildlife, Forest & Range Evaluation Program (FREP), and Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System (RESULTS).

Discussion

This performance measure highlights the ministry's commitment to continually improve the quality and integrity of data used to inform resource management decision making; the better the quality and integrity of the data, the more informed the decision.

The ministry collects and monitors various sources of data, and this information is used as the basis for sustainable resource management decisions. This index assesses the improvement in the quality of

four key data sets: inventory, wildlife, Forest and Range Evaluation Program, and Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System. Each of these four information sources are analyzed and scored independently, then combined to form the index reported in this measure. The combination of four data sets into a single index tells the ministry how well it is improving the overall quality of data used to inform stewardship decisions.

The achievement of this year's target continues to reflect the ministry's commitment to focus on a portion of mid-term timber supply and land-based investment funding on improving forest inventory, as well as elk and moose inventories, to ensure that the best information is available to make sound resource management decisions that benefit British Columbians.

Performance Measure 4: Cumulative Effects Framework Implementation

Performance Measure	2014/15 Actual[2]	2015/16 Target[3]	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target[4]	2017/18 Target
Number of Provincial Core Value assessments[1]	n/a	6	5	10	Pending

Data Source: Resource Management Objectives Branch, CEF, and NRPP project management tracking systems.

[1] Examples of core values (i.e. values with relevance provincially) and a description of provincial core value assessment are in the Overview Report. Core values are relevant provincially, are strategic and apply generally to the province as a whole. They include the current condition of values and are to be considered in sub-regional Cumulative Effects Assessments (CEA).

[2] This performance measure was new to the Ministry Service Plan in 2015/16.

[3] Targets for the number of core values are annual and cumulative for the first Phase of Implementation 2014-2016. After 2016 selection of any additional core values and subsequent core value assessments are to be determined as implementation informs progress.

[4] Results are cumulative.

Discussion

In early 2014, in alignment with the broader natural resource sector transformation, Government directed the implementation of the Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF). The CEF provides the policy, procedures and tools necessary to improve the consideration of cumulative effects in natural resource decision-making. This integrated approach to the policy and decision-making process across B.C.'s natural resource ministries is expected to contribute to a positive investment climate and increased economic activity in B.C. while managing resources sustainably and respecting First Nations' rights and interests.

This performance measure was introduced to the Ministry Service Plan in 2015/16 to track progress towards one part of the CEF implementation – assessment of the current condition of selected core values. Assessment procedures for the initial set of 10 core values are targeted for completion in 2016/17. At that time, the ministry will determine if additional core values and subsequent assessments are required to further support implementation of the CEF.

In 2015/16, the ministry substantively completed five provincial core value assessments for: Aquatic ecosystems, Forest Biodiversity, Old Forest, Moose and Grizzly Bear. Although the ministry did not achieve its target of completing six provincial core values assessments, the information gathered will support resource use decisions, and inform future provincial core values assessments procedures. In 2016/17, consultation and review will occur to support completion of these core value assessments.

In addition to provincial core values assessments, the ministry is advancing several other initiatives which are contributing to the Province's information base for implementing the CEF. For example, a number of cumulative effects values have been identified at a regional level, resulting in a greater number of values being assessed throughout the province. In addition, work is underway to improve the evaluation of existing and ongoing monitoring information to provide decision makers with integrated reports on the condition, status and trend of values. Lastly, partnerships with other levels of government (e.g., federal and First Nations) are expanding the knowledge of cumulative effects values

throughout the Province. Collectively, these initiatives will ensure continued growth and improvement of the CEF.

Performance Measure 5: Recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target[1]	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Number of hectares of ecosystems in recovery mode	13,400	16,600	22,600	28,600	29,000	34,600	40,600

Data Sources: Land Based Investment Strategy - Categories: Range Remediation; Ecosystem Restoration; and Invasive Plant Management. Invasive Alien Plant Program database. District range reports. Ecosystem Restoration Steering Committee reports.

[1] Targets are cumulative over the three year period, with an expected annual increase of 6,000 hectares recovered per year based on current funding levels, and include an aggregate total of Range Remediation (e.g. fencing, water developments, and improved grazing management), Ecosystem Restoration (forest thinning and prescribed burning), and Invasive Plant Management (mechanical, chemical and biocontrol agents) annual targets.

Discussion

B.C. has unique and valuable open forest and grassland ecosystems which contain significant biodiversity values, and sustain a beef cattle industry that is a mainstay of the interior economy. These grasslands can be degraded by the spread of invasive plants, intensive recreational activities, improper grazing practices, and forest ingrowth and encroachment. In addition, a changing climate will compound the ecological changes that will occur.

This measure assesses one aspect of the ministry's efforts to maintain and improve ecosystem health and resilience through the recovery of open forest and grassland ecosystems, through prescribed burning and other measures. By using data from inspections and monitoring the ministry can confirm that degraded ecosystems are effectively remediated and recovering. Restored ecosystems help to: improve resiliency to climate change while reducing wildfire risks to communities; improve habitat for grassland dependent species (including many species at risk); increase natural forage for wildlife and livestock; increase availability of First Nations' traditional use plants and habitats; protect critical community drinking water sources; and improve overall forest health, supporting short- and mid-term timber supply and fibre availability.

During fiscal 2015/16, the ministry restored ecosystem health to 6,400 hectares of open forest and grassland ecosystems and achieved the cumulative target of 28,600 hectares in recovery. This was achieved through our efforts in Range Remediation, Ecosystem Restoration and Invasive Plant Management.

Performance Measure 6: Timber volume gain from silviculture investments

Performance Measure	2010/11 Baseline	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target[2]	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Timber volume gain (millions of cubic metres) expected in 65 years from silviculture treatments completed[1]	7.3	7.4	8.5	8.5	7.7	7.8	7.6	8.7

Data Source: Volume gains (millions of cubic metres of wood) estimated using data submitted by licensees and the ministry to RESULTS (Reporting Silviculture Updates and Land status Tracking System) and SPAR (Seed Planning and Registry System).

[1] Gain as compared to basic reforestation using natural unimproved seed sources; "Timber Volume gain" includes incremental growth associated with silviculture treatment (planting using select seed, rehabilitation, juvenile spacing, and fertilization) and is based on the estimated total accumulated volume gains in 65 years.

[2] Targets are based in part on Land Based Investment Strategy (LBIS) funding, and are also influenced by licensee activity. Targets are forecast based on activity from the previous 2 years, for example, seedlings sown in fall 2013 for planting in spring and summer 2015 influence targets in 2015/16.

Discussion

In British Columbia, there is a legal obligation to reforest harvested areas. This performance measure accounts for predicted timber volume gains resulting from the Province's silviculture program investments in planting using select seed, rehabilitation, juvenile spacing and fertilization (these investments are made in addition to reforestation by licensees on areas they harvest). Silviculture practices support the achievement of timber supply objectives, for example, as set out in *'Beyond the Beetle: A Mid-Term Timber Supply Action Plan'*. The measure accounts for Forests for Tomorrow investments and volume gains from the required use of select seed, and reflects the benefit from investments in the land base, forest resource stewardship, and sustainable timber productivity.

The achievement in 2015/16 reflects continued planting with select seed, as well as Government's commitment to reforest areas impacted by mountain pine beetle and wildfire. The result was slightly higher than anticipated for 2015/16 due to a higher than predicted fertilization program. About four million cubic metres of the volume projected in this measure is additional volume not currently included in the future allowable annual cut but will be potentially available for future harvest.

This measure complements attainment of the provincial sustainable harvest level targets: 57 million cubic metres per year during the mid-term, and 65 million cubic metres per year for the long term. While targets vary somewhat from year to year, the increases in the performance measure targets since the 2010/11 baseline reflect the ministry's commitment to addressing the substantial long lasting economic, social and environmental impacts resulting from the devastating mountain pine beetle infestations and recent large-scale wildfires.

In addition, the ministry demonstrated its commitment to enhancing reforestation efforts through the creation of the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia, where funds will be allocated to deliver a broad mandate which includes reducing the threat of wildfire, ensuring healthy and resilient forests and wildlife habitat, and supporting increased economic opportunities for British Columbians.

Objective 2.2: Safe and environmentally responsible natural resource management practices.

Strategies

- Remediate Crown contaminated sites to ensure clean land and water for the protection of human health and the environment.
- In cooperation with industry, improve environmental and resource worker safety management through ministry business and policy development.
- Effectively monitor and manage threats, such as flood, landslides and unwanted wildfire, to protect public health, promote safety and sustain healthy ecosystems.
- Promote safe and responsible motorized use of public lands by supporting the implementation of the Trails Strategy for British Columbia and the Off Road Vehicle Management Framework.

Performance Measure 7: Dam safety inspection compliance.

Performance Measure	2002/03 Baseline[2]	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Actual	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Percentage of owners of High, Very High and Extreme Consequence Classification dams that complete the required inspections and return the *Dam Status Report Form*[1]	62%	94%	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%

Data Source: Water Management Branch, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

[1] Based on Dam Status Report Form returns from owners of the approximately 354 High, Very High and Extreme Consequence Classification dams in British Columbia in 2015/16. Number of dams in these classes may change slightly in 2015/16 due to dam owner review, dam safety review, reclassification of dams from lower consequence classes or addition of new dams.

[2] Percentage of owners of High and Very High Consequence Classification dams who returned the Regulation Compliance Forms for 2002/03. The 'Extreme' classification did not exist at that time.

Discussion

Under the authority of the Dam Safety Regulation of the *Water Sustainability Act* (formerly British Columbia Dam Safety Regulation and *Water Act*), all B.C. dam owners with High, Very High or Extreme failure consequence classification dams are required to complete an annual form to confirm the status of their dam safety program. The results are used by the ministry to determine whether dams are being inspected and maintained by the owners as required, and assist the ministry in meeting its objective of effectively monitoring and managing risks to the environment and public health and safety. The accuracy and reliability of the data is dependent on the dam owners completing the form properly. Forms are mailed to dam owners in late November, requiring submission by January 31st.

At least once every five years, each high, very high and extreme consequence dam receives a site audit by a ministry dam safety officer. During these visits, compliance with the regulation is assessed and dam owners have the opportunity to discuss the status of their dams and their inspection and maintenance programs. The annual reporting by dam owners augments these dam audits and provides the dam safety officer with interim information allowing them to decide whether or not additional information from the dam owner or a site visit is warranted sooner than the scheduled audit. Those owners that do not meet the requirements of the Dam Safety Regulation may be subject to a process of escalating enforcement until compliance is achieved. Detailed compliance and audit results are published each year in the *Dam Safety Program Annual Report*.

Objective 2.3: Development and use of natural resources is in accordance with the ministry's legislative and regulatory framework.

Strategies

- Enhance natural resource stewardship through effective compliance and enforcement of natural resource legislation, regulations and policies.
- Ensure B.C.'s natural resources and values are resilient to the impacts of climate change by embedding appropriate strategies into resource management policy and practices.

- Work cooperatively with First Nations to sustainably manage land and natural resources, to better understand First Nation interests and to improve alignment between provincial and First Nation interests.
- Advance professional reliance and the use of qualified persons in an environment that supports innovative practices balanced with clear accountabilities.

Performance Measure 8: Monitoring statutory requirements within the resource management sector.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline[2]	2014/15 Actual[1]	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2017/18 Target
Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) Presence[1]	70%	69%	[illegible]%	72%	78%	79%

Data Source: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Natural Resource Information System

[1] Compliance & Enforcement Presence is defined as the amount of C&E field staff capacity that is presented to the regulated community, expressed as a percentage of actual time against available operational capacity. This performance measure was redefined in 2014. The former title was "Meeting management and use standards" and measured the "Per cent of the regulated community's compliance with statutory requirements".

[2] Performance measure baseline established in 2013/14 was 70%

Discussion

This measure demonstrates the ministry is upholding the Province's laws to protect natural resources through its compliance and enforcement framework. Field presence is the amount of time that compliance and enforcement staff are physically on site with regulated entities. When ministry compliance and enforcement officers are visible to the regulated community and the public, this in itself acts as a proactive measure, providing the opportunity for improved stakeholder and community relations, industry education and promotion of compliance. Changes to the amount of time compliance and enforcement staff spend with regulated entities and the public are directly correlated with changes in compliance rates.

Field presence increased by three per cent in 2015/16 due to continued efforts by the ministry to improve business and system processes, leading to less overall administration time for the ministry's compliance and enforcement officers. The ministry fell slightly below its target due to higher than anticipated administration time for investigations.

To support achievement of future years' targets, the ministry is implementing new tools and streamlined processes to increase field time for compliance and enforcement officers, while also making that time more effective and efficient. These include tools such as the provincial Natural Resource Operations TIPS line that will target activities that warrant higher priority, and the Natural Resource Violations Reporting decision making tool, that together will continue to provide new and streamlined ways to increase time in the field for compliance and enforcement officers

Goal 3: Productive, thriving natural resource sector and resilient communities.

The ministry is committed to fostering a competitive natural resource sector, creating jobs for British Columbians, and supporting robust rural communities. To achieve this, the ministry is dedicated to making natural resource use decisions that are transparent and respect the shared public trust of B.C.'s land and resources, engaging in respectful and effective communications that ensure all parties are properly informed and consulted on those decisions, and delivering cost-efficient, effective and value-

for-money services and programs that support community needs and optimize economic benefits of natural resource development.

Objective 3.1: Natural resource decisions and dispositions support community needs and provincial priorities.

Strategies

- Engage with communities, industry and First Nations to manage the impacts to upcoming fibre supply as a result of the mountain pine beetle epidemic.
- Manage high value Crown land disposition proposals, providing certainty for industry to capture economic opportunities such as liquefied natural gas, while enhancing Government priorities and producing broad public benefit.
- Develop and coordinate a consistent and effective First Nations consultation function for the natural resource sector to respect First Nations interests in the land base.
- Continue to build partnerships with local governments, other agencies and First Nations to identify sustainable resource development opportunities and support priority treaty and reconciliation initiatives.
- Improve forest fibre utilization to support further manufacturing and bioenergy.
- Work to fulfill the rural development mandate commitments as described in *Supporting Rural Development – Creating a Voice for Rural British Columbia.*
- Strengthen public trust in natural resource management practices by promoting values-based decision making principles and engaging with stakeholders and communities.
- Strengthen the contribution of B.C.'s historic places, including provincial heritage sites, to community identity, economic health, First Nations cultural values and environmental stewardship.

Objective 3.2: Economic benefits of natural resource development are optimized.

Strategies

- Set the operating context, through policy and regulation, to optimize revenue generated by the natural resource sector while supporting sustainable use.
- Optimize the economic benefits of Crown land through timely decision making, including lands with archaeological sites.
- Include First Nations as a full partner in the forest sector through the *First Nations Forest Sector Strategy*.
- Ensure that BC Timber Sales supports a globally competitive operating environment and forestry jobs in B.C. through sustainable forest development and auction of Crown timber.
- Ensure market access is maximized and B.C. lumber exports are diversified through activities such as co-sponsoring annual B.C. trade missions with the forest industry.

- Foster an efficient and innovative market-based operating climate and support the diversification of natural resource product markets and Crown land utilization.
- Facilitate the growth of B.C.'s bio-economy through key partnerships that advance competitiveness and support new innovative forest product facilities in B.C.

Performance Measure 9: Government revenue derived from the use of Crown land and natural resources.

Performance Measure	2012/13 Actual[1]	2013/14 Actual[1]	2014/15 Actual[2]	2015/16 Target[3]	2015/16 Actual[4]	2016/17 Target[5]	2017/18 Target[5]
Forests[6]	$521M	$665M	$689M	$782M	$804M	$741M	$748M
Crown Lands	$70M	$74M	$126M	$133M	$67M	$121M	$140M
Natural Resource Operations[7]	$444M	$480M	$440M	$435M	$443M	$471M	$436M
Total Ministry Revenue	**$1,035M**	**$1,219M**	**$1,255M**	**$1,350M**	**$1,314M**	**$ 1,333M**	**$ 1,324M**

Data Source: (see footnotes below)

[1] Ministry 2014/15 Annual Service Plan Report

[2] Ministry 2014/15 Oracle GL Actuals.

[3] Ministry 2015/16 Estimates Budget.

[4] Ministry 2015/16 Oracle GL actuals in period ADJ1-2016.

Actual 2015/16 revenue (unaudited) is subject to verification by audit of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). The 2015/16 revenue will continue to fluctuate minimally until Closing Adjustment Period #3 is completed by the OAG on or before June 30, 2016. The target release date of Public Accounts is expected to be in early July 2016.

[5] Ministry 2016/17 Service Plan. Revenue targets are based on the Ministry's 2015/16 3rd quarter revised revenue forecast and 2016/17 Budget Estimates Forecast. Revenue forecasts are regularly revised to reflect changes in market conditions and timing of land sale completions.

[6] The Forest revenues are based on Timber Pricing Branch and Ministry of Finance consensus of commodity prices and harvest volumes utilized in the forecast modeling analysis.

[7] Natural resource operations revenue targets will be revised in future years to reflect new water use fees that will be introduced under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

Discussion

The ministry has indirect influence on this measure from policy, regulation and permitting processes that contribute to an operating environment conducive to revenue generation. The measure monitors and forecasts anticipated revenue into the Government's consolidated revenue fund, based on analysis of Crown forest and land activity under prevailing economic conditions, and is therefore subject to market and other fluctuations.

Forest revenue includes stumpage from timber tenures and BC Timber Sales and other sources such as softwood lumber border taxes, log export fees, annual rents, range permits and fees, other miscellaneous fees and waste. Crown land revenue is generated from Crown land tenures, Crown land sales, Crown land royalties and application fees. Natural resource operations revenue is generated primarily from water licences and rentals, *Wildlife Act* fees and licences, and land registry fees.

Actual 2015/16 forest revenue slightly exceeded its target. The revenue surplus was a combination of lower than expected Crown stumpage revenue and higher than expected Softwood Lumber Border Tax revenue.

Crown stumpage revenue was lower than the 2015/16 budget forecast due to overall Crown stumpage rates being 6.8% lower than forecasted. The total Crown harvest volume fell just marginally below forecasted levels (62.6 million cubic meters versus 63 million cubic metres).

There was a significant increase in the Softwood Lumber Border Tax revenue due to lower lumber prices triggering the export tax. Actual Softwood Lumber Border Tax revenues for 2015/16 were

$73.1 million; significantly higher than the 2015/16 forecast of $0. In comparison, revenues from the Softwood Lumber Border Tax in 2014/15 were $0 and 2013/14 was $20.1 million. The Softwood Lumber Agreement expired October 12, 2015 and at this time no future border tax revenues are expected.

Crown land forecasted revenue was $66 million less than the target of $133 million. This was due to the following factors within Crown Land Sales: 1) a regional land sale forecast moved $9 million of projects to outward years due to continued First Nation consultations, 2) a project valued at $28 million was postponed due to completion of contractual obligations, and 3) the completion dates for Release of Assets for Economic Generation (RAEG) net sales of $29 million were readjusted during the year due to deletions and additions of projects to the program, and timing of completion of sales

Natural Resource Operations revenue was $8 million greater than the target of $435 million mainly as a result of two payments from Sole Proponent Agreements (Nexen and Woodside) that were not budgeted for in 2015/16.

Ministry Financial Report

Discussion of Results

The ministry's operating budget for 2015/16 was $608.287 million. Through the course of the year, the ministry obtained access to additional authorizations totalling $315.057 million. The breakdown of contingencies and other authorizations are as follows:

Direct Fire:

- $213.952 million for fire suppression activities based on an active fire season;
- $85.0 million for the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. to strategically target wildfire prevention at the landscape level; and
- $10.0 million for the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative to undertake proactive steps to help reduce future wildfire risks in and around communities.

BC Timber Sales:

- $6.104 million for increased silviculture liability and increased maintenance costs relating to storm damage (offset by an increase in net revenue of $50.125 million.)

The ministry's total expenditure of $918.826 million is a combination of base budget and other authorizations.

The ministry's total capital spending for 2015/16 was $74.147 million which included contingency approval of $18.596 million for the Natural Resource Permitting Project and $1.885 million for the Cariboo Fire Centre.

In addition to its expenditures, the ministry collected $1.314 billion in revenue on behalf of Government.

Financial Report Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Integrated Resource Operations	57,152	0	57,152	55,916	(1,236)
Resource Stewardship	95,153	0	95,153	95,153	0
Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation	13,872	0	13,872	5,134	(8,738)
Timber Operations, Pricing and First Nations	24,136	0	24,136	25,677	1,541
Regional Operations	122,845	0	122,845	126,572	3,727
Executive and Support Services	67,299	0	67,299	69,021	1,722
Sub-Total – Ministry Operations Vote	**380,457**	**0**	**380,457**	**377,473**	**(2,984)**
Direct Fire	63,165	308,952	372,117	372,117	0
BC Timber Sales	164,645	6,104	170,749	170,749	0
Crown Land	20	0	20	0	(20)
Forest Stand Management Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Interest on Revenue Refunds	0	1	1	1	0
Sub-Total – Other Appropriations	**227,830**	**315,057**	**542,887**	**542,867**	**(20)**
Sub-Total – All Appropriations	**608,287**	**315,057**	**923,344**	**920,340**	**(3,004)**
Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual[2]	0	0	0	(1,514)	(1,514)
Total	**608,287**	**315,057**	**923,344**	**918,826**	**(4,518)**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Executive and Support Services	19,942	1,885	21,827	21,827	0
BC Timber Sales	34,156	0	34,156	33,724	(432)
Natural Resource Permitting Project	0	18,596	18,596	18,596	0
Total	**54,098**	**20,481**	**74,579**	**74,147**	**(432)**

	Estimated	Other Authorizations[1]	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Other Financing Transactions ($000)					
BC Timber Sales Disbursements					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	80,301	0	80,301	74,708	(6,223)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**80,301**	**0**	**80,301**	**74,708**	**(6,223)**
Crown Land Administration					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	6,382	0	6,382	3,162	(3,220)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**6,382**	**0**	**6,382**	**3,162**	**(3,220)**
Crown Land Special Account					
Receipts	(25)	0	(25)	(15)	10
Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**(25)**	**0**	**(25)**	**(15)**	**10**
Tourism Development					
Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	600	0	600	203	(397)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**600**	**0**	**600**	**203**	**(397)**
Habitat Conservation Trust					
Receipts	(5,977)	0	(5,977)	(6,521)	(544)
Disbursements	5,977	0	5,977	6,521	544
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Receipts	**(6,002)**	**0**	**(6,002)**	**(6,536)**	**(534)**
Total Disbursements	**93,260**	**0**	**93,260**	**83,964**	**(9,296)**
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	**87,258**	**0**	**87,258**	**77,428**	**(9,830)**

[1] "Other Authorizations" include Supplementary Estimates, Statutory Appropriations and Contingencies. The source of the Other Appropriations is referenced above. Amounts in this column are not related to the "estimated amount" under sections 5(1) and 6(1) of the *Balanced Budget and Ministerial Accountability Act* for ministerial accountability for operating expenses under the Act.

[2] The Adjustment of Prior Year Accrual of $1.514 million is a reversal of accruals in the previous year.

Forest Practices Board Financial Report

The Forest Practices Board spent 99.4% of its allocated budget in 2015/16. The Forest Practices Board independently monitors and reviews forest and range practices in B.C.'s public forests and rangelands. The Board audits both tenure holders and government ministries for compliance with forest and range practices legislation, carries out special investigations and issues reports as appropriate, investigates concerns and complaints from the public, and participates in appeals to the Forest Appeals Commission. It informs both the B.C. public and the international marketplace of forest and range licensees' performance in carrying out sound practices and complying with legal requirements.

The Board's mandate is provided by the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*. While the Board operates independently from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, its budget vote is the responsibility of the Minister. The Board reports its accomplishments and priorities through an annual report found at: www.bcfpb.ca.

Forest Practices Board Resource Summary Table

	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Total	3,818	0,000	3,818	3,795	(23)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Total	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000	0,000

Major Capital Projects

Major Capital Projects	Targeted Completion Date (Year)	Approved Anticipated Total Cost of Project ($ millions)	Project Cost to March 31, 2016[1]
Natural Resource Permitting Project (NRPP)	**2018**	**57,200**	**37,523**

[1] The actuals for NRPP includes $4.778M that was transferred to the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services

Natural Resource Permitting Project (NRPP)

NRPP is part of the Province's commitment to reduce red tape for British Columbians by streamlining and simplifying natural resource related permitting services. NRPP has developed proactive strategies to ensure that it delivers on time, on scope and within budget. These include rigorous oversight by a review board, regular third party reviews, phased spending approvals, as well as strong financial controls and contractual safeguards. Government has committed to Phase 1 of NRPP, which is budgeted at $57.2 million.

Appendix A: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Contact Information

Headquarters
P.O. Box 9361 STN PROV GOVT,
Victoria, B.C., V8W 9M2
Phone: 250 387-1772
Fax: 250 387-3291
www.gov.bc.ca/for/contacts.html

BC Timber Sales – Headquarters
Website: www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/
Contacts: www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/contact/

Media
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Phone: 250 356-5261

FrontCounter BC:
Call toll free: 1-877-855-3222
Call from outside North America at:
++1-604-586-4400
E-mail: FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca
To contact specific offices, please visit:
www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/

Regional Operations Offices:

Surrey
Suite 200 - 10428 153rd Street, V3R 1E1
Phone: 604 586-4400

Nanaimo
Suite 142, 2080 Labieux Road, V9T 6J9
Phone: 250 751-7220

Smithers
3726 Alfred Avenue, V0J 2N0
Phone: 250 847-7260

Prince George
5th Floor, 1011 4th Avenue, V2L 3H9
Phone: 250 565-6779

Williams Lake
200-640 Borland Street, V2G 4T1
Phone: 250 398-4327

Kamloops
441 Columbia Street, V2C 2T3
Phone: 250 828-4131

Cranbrook
1902 Theatre Road, V1C 7G1
Phone: 250 426-1766

Fort St. John
400 -10003 110 Avenue, V1J 6M7
Phone: 250 787-3411

Hyperlinks to Additional Information

Ministry website: www.gov.bc.ca/for/

BC Timber Sales: www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan: www.bcjobsplan.ca/

Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan 4-year update:
http://engage.gov.bc.ca/bcjobsplan/economy/progress-reports/

Climate Adaptation Strategy: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/climate-change/policy-legislation-and-responses/adaptation/adaptation_strategy.pdf

EmergencyManagementBC: www.embc.gov.bc.ca/index.htm

FPInnovations: www.fpinnovations.ca/

GeoBC: geobc.gov.bc.ca/

Integrated Land and Resource Registry: http://geobc.gov.bc.ca/rrr/ilrr/index.html

Land Based Investment Strategy: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/land-based-investment/development-of-the-lbis

Major Projects BC: www.for.gov.bc.ca/major_projects/

Our Natural Advantage: Forest Sector Strategy for British Columbia:
www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/forestsectorstrategy/

Wildfire Information: www.bcwildfire.ca

Appendix B: List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Crowns
Creston Valley Wildlife Management Authority

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions
BC Timber Export Advisory Committee
Forest Practices Board
Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

Appendix C: Minister's Mandate and Actions Summary

In the Premier's annual Mandate Letter to the Minister, dated June 2014, the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations received direction on strategic priorities. In July, 2015, an updated Mandate Letter to the Minister carried over many of the priorities for the 2015/16 fiscal year. These priorities and the ministry's resulting actions to March 31, 2016 are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry's Action
Softwood Lumber Agreement **June 2014:** Lead the Softwood Lumber treaty discussions leading up to re-negotiation with the United States in 2016. **July 2015 update:** Lead the Softwood Lumber Agreement discussions with the federal government and ensure that the federal government position is consistent with that of the province.	The ministry is leading consultations with the B.C. lumber industry and legal and expert advisors, and continues to work with the federal government. Canada is the overall lead on the file, in efforts to achieve a managed trade agreement with the U.S. A Ministers' trade policy committee meets regularly to discuss strategy and guide decisions. With B.C.'s role as Canada's largest softwood exporter to the U.S., the Province has been utilizing these vehicles to facilitate the inclusion of B.C.'s position in national negotiations.
BC Timber Sales Effectiveness **July 2014:** Implement the recommendations of the BC Timber Sales Effectiveness Review. **July 2015 update:** Continue to implement the recommendations of the BC Timber Sales effectiveness review and report to Cabinet the status of timber sales in the province by December 31, 2015.	The ministry conducted a review of the role and effectiveness of BC Timber Sales in 2013, which included extensive stakeholder consultation. All of the 60 recommendations have now been addressed (most implemented and some deferred) resulting in a strengthened mandate and program goals and objectives for BCTS. A final report on the implementation phase was submitted to the Minister on October 30, 2015, and a report was prepared for Cabinet on the status of timber sales in the province in January 30, 2016. Continued maintenance of this work is a commitment by Government in its focus on competitiveness for the sector.
Timber Supply **June 2014:** Work with the forest industry to prepare for the upcoming fibre supply reduction as the pine beetle killed timber is exhausted. **July 2015 update:** Continue to work with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to prepare for and minimize the impact of timber supply reductions caused by the mountain pine beetle.	The ministry has been actively engaged in numerous projects addressing timber salvage resulting from the mountain pine beetle infestation both internally and in collaboration with industry and other ministries as part of its Forest Sector Competitiveness Agenda. Since July, 2015, as part of its focus on the competitiveness of the sector, the ministry, in collaboration with other ministries, has been working to identify potential mitigation programs and tools available to Government to support impacted communities and workers. This has also included implementing policy changes to increase the use of residual fibre under the Forest Fibre Action Plan, announced in September, 2015. Delivery of the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. and the Rural Dividend will also contribute to managing the harvest reduction impacts through diversifying economies and improving public safety and ecosystem health.
Authorizations Streamlining **June 2014:** Work with other resource ministries to ensure application processes are streamlined to ensure faster turnaround times for project proponents.	On April 1, 2015, the responsibility for park, wildlife and fish permits was transferred to FrontCounter BC, shifting these permits to an electronic process. Two sections of the *Water Act* (Sections 8 and 9) application were also shifted to an electronic process in 2015/16. Streamlining of the processes for both water licences and amendments has led to faster application processing time for clients. The ministry also introduced a new Fish and Wildlife ID, which

	replaces the Hunter Number, as well as the ability to apply online for Limited Entry Hunting (LEH), reducing red tape while making it easier for hunters to submit and track their LEH applications. Online LEH will also improve the ability to make integrated stewardship decisions for wildlife resources in BC.
Trade Missions **June 2014:** Co-Sponsor with the forest industry annual BC trade missions to China, India, Japan and Korea to continue to diversify BC lumber exports. **July 2015 update:** As above.	Two successful trade missions (Japan and China) were completed in November – December, 2015, jointly with Forest Innovation Investment, Ltd, and Canada Wood. Two development agreements were signed, furthering our efforts to expand export markets for B.C.'s softwood lumber products. In Japan, the BC Wood showroom was officially opened in Tokyo. China and Japan are our province's second- and third- largest markets respectively for softwood lumber products and these annual missions are a cornerstone of the joint provincial-federal-industry market developments in Asia. The ministry aims to double the amount of lumber used in Asia in wood-frame construction from 2013 to 2017.
Silviculture Investment **June 2014:** Develop and implement a plan for the $10 million in additional silviculture provided to reforestation in the province beginning in 2015/16.	Planning began in 2013 to create a multi-year silviculture strategy to achieve the Forests for Tomorrow planting numbers as a new steady-state target of approximately 28 million seedlings annually, by 2019/20. In 2014, surveys were completed which identify specific treatment areas. In 2015/16, approximately $6 million were shifted into current reforestation within Forests for Tomorrow, reflecting benefits and opportunities for improving the mid-term timber supply. In addition, as part of Balanced Budget 2016, Government announced $85 million for the implementation of the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia, which has a broad mandate to reduce the threat of wildfires, while ensuring healthy and resilient forests and wildlife habitat and supporting increased economic opportunities for British Columbians. In addition, the Society's goals align with other key ministry programs to maximize restoration and risk reduction at the landscape level.
Mid-term timber supply **June 2014:** Respond to the public consultation on the mid-term timber supply recommendations on area-based management.	A public engagement process, launched in April 2014, sought feedback on the social, economic and environmental benefits from proponents interested in converting their volume based licence to an area based licence. It also sought input on the criteria for evaluating applications and the process for implementing conversions, including specific application requirements and target locations for conversion opportunities. In June, 2014, a report, "Results of Public Engagement and Recommendations for British Columbia" summarized input received and made 35 recommendations. In light of the June 26, 2014 Supreme Court of Canada Tsilhqot'in decision and requests from forest companies and communities to focus on key immediate priorities, legislative changes did not proceed.
Fibre Security for Secondary and Non-Timber Users **June 2014:** Examine ways to enhance security of fiber supply for secondary and non-lumber users of lower quality and residual fiber	In 2014, the Forestry and Fibre Working Group was formed, comprised of primary and secondary manufacturers and ministry staff, to work collaboratively to develop a series of recommendations and an implementation plan designed to improve access to residual fibre from harvesting. The resulting package of collaborative recommendations and implementation plan formed the basis of the

July 2015 update: Examine ways to enhance the security of fibre supply for secondary and non-lumber users of lower quality and residual fibre and bring forward options that can be introduced in the Spring 2016 Legislative Session.	Forest Fibre Action Plan announced in September 2015 as part of Government's focus on forest sector competitiveness. The Forest Fibre Action Plan represents 13 actions designed to improve secure access to harvest residuals to secondary fibre users. Key focuses include increasing the utilization of lower-quality wood and wood residue, facilitating integrated harvesting, enhancing business to business relationships between primary harvesters and secondary users, and enhancing the security of fibre supply for secondary and non-lumber users of low quality and residual fibre. Bill 12, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Statutes Amendment Act, 2016 was introduced on March 10, 2016. In addition, legislative amendments were introduced in early 2016 to improve residual fibre through increased certainty of fibre supply for primary and secondary harvesters in their operational planning, and help provide security to users of residual fibre, such as pellet producers, in the province's Interior.
Mining Application Streamlining **June 2014:** Support the development of new mines and major mine expansions by working with industry and natural resource ministries to ensure that BC's mines permitting process is the best in Canada.	In January, 2015, a Major Mines Project Office and Board was created by the Ministry of Energy and Mines to support all new major mine developments and will handle all future major mine applications in the Province.
BC Guides and Outfitters **June 2014:** Continue to work with BC Guides and Outfitters and other backcountry operators to ensure continued access and business certainty to Crown land and provide economic and tourism opportunities in rural British Columbia.	Working with stakeholders, the ministry amended the *Wildlife Act* in April, 2014 to allow corporations as well as individuals to hold guiding territory certificates. Development of regulations to support this amendment is now complete, and as of June 12, 2015, corporations can now hold guiding territory certificates. In addition, amendments to the *Wildlife Act* and the regulations that replaced assistant guide licensing with a guide outfitter-issued authorization scheme have also been completed. This provided guide outfitter businesses with the flexibility to quickly hire additional staff in response to unexpected peaks in business. The ministry's Adventure Tourism Policy was updated in February 2015, bringing improved tenure certainty. In Fall, 2015, the policy was updated again, resulting in a renewed pricing framework for guided adventure tourism.
Rural Dividend **June 2014:** Work with Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett and the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development on the creation and implementation of the Rural Dividend committed in Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow. **July 2015 update:** Work with Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett and her Rural Advisory Council to provide advice to government on ways to improve rural economic development, access to capital and the rural dividend.	The Rural Advisory Council was established in April 2015. Thirteen members from across rural B.C. with a strong understanding of rural issues play an active role on the Council, providing advice to Government on supporting thriving rural communities. In its first year, the Council held five meetings, and has provided Government with key input into the development of the Rural Dividend. Additionally, the Council reviewed and provided input to Government on the rural access to capital and support for rural businesses. As a result of the Rural Advisory Council's recommendations, a three year, $75 million Rural Dividend program was announced in September, 2015, and launched in early 2016. This program helps rural communities with a population of 25,000 or less to strengthen

	their community resilience, and support their social, cultural and economic viability. (www.gov.bc.ca/ruraldividend).
Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC **June 2014:** Work with Finance to ensure all revenues from fishing licences are provided to the Freshwater Fisheries Society for conservation purposes no later than 2015/16.	A contract with Freshwater Fisheries Society BC was announced in March, 2015. As of April 1, 2015, 100 per cent of net angling revenues are transferred to the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, to fund research, conservation and education programs, improving angler access and the Society's stocking program.
Great Bear Rainforest **June 2014:** Implement the Great Bear Rainforest ecosystem-based management agreement. **July 2015 update:** Finalize and implement the Great Bear Rainforest ecosystem-based management agreement.	The Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) covers 6.4 million hectares of B.C.'s coast from north Vancouver Island to the B.C. - Alaska border, and includes one-quarter of the world's coastal temperate rainforest. Ecosystem-based management (EBM) was central to an agreement announced in February, 2016, involving environmental groups and forest companies, and endorsed by local First Nations and the B.C. government. EBM is an adaptive, systematic approach to managing human activities that seeks to ensure the co-existence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities. In February and March 2016, the Province announced more than 30 negotiated agreements between Government, industry, First Nations and environmental non-government organizations that will support the continued implementation of EBM in the GBR. The GBR land use order and *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* are focused on land and forest management in the area to support ecological integrity. The land use order was signed in January, 2016 and the *Great Bear Rainforest (Forest Management) Act* was introduced on March 1st, 2016 and was passed in early 2016.